

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 20, 2012

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

2nd REGULAR SESSION OF THE 50TH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Action

Since the last report, 206 floor actions were filed; 9 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. At the end of **day 103** of the legislative session, **1395 bills posted; 312 passed; 287 signed** by the Governor; **18 vetoed; 146 memorials or resolutions posted; 38 passed.**

Today, Friday, April 20th marks the 103rd day of the session. With no bills being signed until the budget is resolved, the session continues. According to House Rule 2A: . . . regular sessions shall be adjourned sine die no later than the Saturday of the week in which the 100th day (April 17) of session falls. (The Speaker and the President may extend the session for a period not to exceed seven additional days. Thereafter, the session can be extended only by a majority vote of the Members.)

The House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, April 23rd at 1:30 p.m.

Fiscal News

*From the **JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights April 2012:*** "The Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) met on April 12, 2012 to update its 4-sector revenue forecast." The report is available for review at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-apr-12.pdf> and the *Finance Advisory Committee Revenue and Budget Update* is available at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/revenuebudgetupdatepres041212.pdf>

The **Governor's** comments about job growth can be viewed at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_041912_MarchEmployment.pdf

Legislation

Administrative and legislative action on some of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined here with summaries or fact sheets from the Arizona State Legislature. Bills tracked by the Council and signed by the Governor this week:

*** Vetoed this week:

H2513: HOAs; Condos; Rental Properties

Senate Fact Sheet as Vetoed: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/s.2513qr_asvetoed.pdf

H2696: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation

House engrossed version of the bill:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2696h.pdf>

The Governor's letter regarding the veto:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_041712_HB2696VetoLtr.pdf

*****Legislative Action**

H2126: Handyman Exemptions; Applicability, 4/18 passed Senate 18-10; ready for House action on Senate amendments

Senate Fact Sheet: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/s.2126ce_aspassed.pdf

H2674: Central State Repository; Nonprofit Organization, 4/16 Senate named members to Conference Committee.

House Summary 4/18: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2674_cc_memo.pdf

H2713: Insurance Premium; Long Term Care; Deduction, 4/18 passed Senate 28-1; ready for House action on Senate amendments.

House Summary 4/18: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2713_concurrusememo.pdf

*****Hearing scheduled next week:**

H2264: Retirement; ASRS; Employer Contributions; Rate, 4/23 at 1:00 pm, Senate Room 1. Senate Fact Sheet:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/s.2264fin.pdf>

Several of the bills this session may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council until the Legislature adjourns. These bills appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It does mean** that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans so the Council has been tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST: <http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24822&listid=45455&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and **is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** *This list will continue to be edited as we track actions up through the adjournment of the 2nd Regular Session of the 50th Legislature.* Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, you may voice your thoughts *at any time* by contacting the: **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or you may **contact the legislator from your area.**

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you would like to learn more about how a bill becomes law, see these links at the Arizona State Legislature's website: <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> and <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf>.

Other News

Today, a special ceremony marked the arrival by train of the historic gun barrels from the U.S.S. Arizona and U.S.S. Missouri which will be incorporated into the **WWII Memorial** at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza. For more information:

http://gunstosalutethefallen.com/Home_Page_G1VS.html

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

S.2243

Medicare Better Health Rewards Program Act of 2012

Introduced on 3/28/2012 by Senator Ron Wyden (OR)

Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a three-year Better Health Rewards Program under which incentives are provided to Medicare beneficiaries who voluntarily agree to participate in the Program.

Directs the Secretary to establish standards for measuring better health targets and points for achieving them for participating Medicare beneficiaries, including those for:

- (1) an annual wellness visit,
- (2) tobacco cessation,
- (3) Body Mass Index (BMI),
- (4) a diabetes screening test,
- (5) cardiovascular disease screening,
- (6) cholesterol level screening, and
- (7) screening tests and specified vaccinations.

Requires the Secretary to make specified incentive payments to each participating Medicare beneficiary who achieves at least 20 points during a year.

Authorizes Medicare Advantage Plans, "Section 1876" health maintenance organization and competitive medical cost plans, and programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) to make incentives to their enrollees to participate in a Better Health Rewards Program.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from gross income any payment made under:

- (1) the Medicare Better Health Rewards Program; and
- (2) any other Better Health Rewards Program.

On 3/28/2012, referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R.4348

Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II

Introduced on 4/16/2012 by Representative John L. Mica (FL-7)

Result of bipartisan action on transportation reauthorization by the House

On 4/19/2012, received in the Senate.

Update to previously reported legislation

H.R. 4305: Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program

On 4/16/2012, referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

This week, the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)** announced the creation of the **Administration on Community Living (ACL)**

ACL was created with the goal of increasing access to community supports and full participation, while focusing attention and resources on the unique needs of older Americans and people with disabilities.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/04/20120416a.html>

For more information on **ACL**, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/acl/>.

Also from **HHS**:

Calling out Medicare scams

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/healthbeat/2012/04/20120417a.html>

Kaiser Family Foundation

The Diversity of Dual Eligible Beneficiaries: An Examination of Services and Spending for People Eligible for Both Medicaid and Medicare:

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7895.cfm>

Issues Brief: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7895-02.pdf>

Federal Funding Under the Affordable Care Act fact sheet:

<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/8301.pdf>

Family Caregiver Alliance

Family Caregiving 2011: Year in Review can be viewed at:

http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2324&chcategory=43&chitem=715

Comparing Cost of Care

Genworth 2012 Cost of Care Survey

http://reversepartner.genworth.com/content/etc/medialib/genworth_v2/pdf/ltc_cost_of_care.Par.38432.File.dat/Methodology_gnw.pdf

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 5th Annual Arizona Geriatrics Society Spring Geriatric Multi-Disciplinary Conference --"EXPANDING YOUR GERIATRIC TOOLBOX: Brief Screening Tools for Use at Bedside or in Clinic"

WHEN: Four Saturday Half-Day Conferences:

May 5 Yavapai College, Prescott AZ

May 12 (morning) Banner Boswell Medical Center, Sun City, AZ

May 12 (afternoon) Banner Desert Medical Center, Mesa, AZ

May 19 University of Arizona Medical Research Building, Tucson, AZ

For more information or to register for the conference, visit the AzGS website

(<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/>) mail or fax the registration form or call the AzGS office at (602) 265-0211. The conference brochure is provided at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/AZGSConfBrochure041212.pdf>

WHAT: Education Workshop on Aging, Dementia, and Developmental Disabilities: National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices Pre-Conference

WHEN: Thursday, May 17, 2012 9 am to 5 pm, Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 East Cotton Center Blvd., Phoenix AZ

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/AgingDementiaFlyer051712.pdf>

WHAT: safeTALK suicide alertness for everyone

WHEN: May 24, 2012, 8:30 to 11:30 am, Pima Council on Aging, 8467 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ

For more information including pre-registration instructions, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/SafeTalkFlyerMay2012.pdf>

Mark your calendar for later this fall

WHAT: 21st Annual NACOG AAA Conference *Creating Caring Communities: Hope For The Challenges Ahead*

WHEN: Thursday, October 4, 2012, 8 am to 5 pm, The High Country Conference Center, 201 W. Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Information posted at: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1055873>

WHAT: 2012 National Adult Protective Services Association Conference Ending Adult Abuse: On the Horizon?

WHEN: October 16 – 18, 2012, Squaw Peak Hilton, Phoenix, AZ

Email for more information: info@apsnetwork.org

Just in case you're interested

Back issues of the ***Legislative Updates*** are linked on the Council website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging